



UNDERSTANDING CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP

The Academic Performance Score for a school is based upon indicators that define a high performing school. Many data elements contribute to the academic score – one of which is *Closing the Achievement Gap*.

Closing the Achievement Gap in the Pennsylvania School Performance Profile is measured for two groups of students:

- All Students – defined as all students enrolled for a full academic year taking the PSSA/Keystone Exam
- Historically Underperforming Students – defined as a non-duplicated count of students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged students, and English Language Learners enrolled for a full academic year taking the PSSA/Keystone Exam. If a student is in more than one of the individual groups (e.g., special education and English Language Learner), s/he is only included in the Historically Underperforming Student group one time – a non-duplicated count. This group is not a cohort but rather students currently in the building meeting the definition during the reported year.

For both groups of students, *Closing the Achievement Gap* is calculated for each of the PSSA/Keystone subjects (Mathematics/Algebra I, Reading/Literature, Writing, and Science/Biology). The achievement gap is determined by comparing the baseline percent of students who are proficient or advanced to the goal of 100% proficiency. The baseline year has been established as the 2012- 2013 school year; thus, there will be no Closing the Achievement Gap scores for 2012 – 2013. Closing the Achievement Gap scores will be reported for the first time in 2013 – 2014.

Once the achievement gap is determined, schools are measured on the success in closing that gap.

- The benchmark for success is defined as closing one-half of the achievement gap over a six year period.
- This success rate is measured annually; if a school is on track or exceeding the cumulative rate needed to close the gap, a score of 100 is earned.
- If a school has closed 80% of the gap, a score of 80 is earned.
- A school not making any progress in closing the gap or even widening the gap earns a score of zero.
- Closing the gap is cumulative, i.e., if the annual goal is exceeded one year and not met the following year, the gain is calculated on a cumulative basis.

CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP ILLUSTRATION

The Historically Underperforming Student group earned 40% Proficient or Advanced in the baseline year.

- Achievement gap = 60% ($100 - 40$).
- One-half of the achievement gap is 30%. (Closing one-half of the achievement gap over a six-year period)
- Over six years, the school must increase by 5 percentage points each year of the six-year period to meet the goal. ($30\%/6 = 5\%$).
- The score is scaled proportionally based upon percent of annual goal met.
 - 5 percentage points or more increase (meeting or exceeding the 5% annual goal) = 100%
 - 4 percentage points (meeting 80% of the annual goal) = 80%
 - 3 percentage points (meeting 60% of the annual goal) = 60%
 - 2 percentage points (meeting 40% of the annual goal) = 40%
 - 1 percentage point (meeting 20% of the annual goal) = 20%
 - No increase or decline = 0%
- The annual goal closure is cumulative, i.e., if the school improves scores by 6 percentage points in year 1 and 4 percentage points in year 2, it earns a 100% in year 1 and year 2.

Proficient/Advanced 100%

TO CALCULATE THE GAP: Subtract Proficient/Advanced from 100

Proficient/Advanced (40%)	Achievement Gap (60%) (100 – 40)
------------------------------	-------------------------------------

TO CLOSE THE GAP: Must increase 5 percentage points each year for six years

Proficient/Advanced (40%)	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; height: 100px;"> <div style="border-left: 1px dashed black; border-right: 1px dashed black; width: 10%;"></div> <div style="border-left: 1px dashed black; border-right: 1px dashed black; width: 10%;"></div> <div style="border-left: 1px dashed black; border-right: 1px dashed black; width: 10%;"></div> <div style="border-left: 1px dashed black; border-right: 1px dashed black; width: 10%;"></div> <div style="border-left: 1px dashed black; border-right: 1px dashed black; width: 10%;"></div> <div style="border-left: 1px dashed black; border-right: 1px dashed black; width: 10%;"></div> <div style="border-left: 1px dashed black; border-right: 1px dashed black; width: 10%;"></div> </div>
------------------------------	--

Year 1 – 45% (5 percentage points increase)
 Year 2 – 50% (5 percentage points increase)
 Year 3 – 55% (5 percentage points increase)
 Year 4 – 60% (5 percentage points increase)
 Year 5 – 65% (5 percentage points increase)
 Year 6 – 70% (5 percentage points increase)